

might even be impossible for them to get fair representation in those departments. A certain proportion of the vacancies in the lower ranks of those departments such as *pakuthi* accountants, clerks in Taluk and Division Cutcheries, Excise peons and Petty Officers, and Police Constables, should therefore be reserved for Nadars and filled after inviting Nadar applicants alone. A similar concession was once shown to the Ezhavas in filling vacancies of Petty Officers in the Excise Department.

Being backward in education, there were only a few E. S. L. C. holders and one or two graduates in the Nadar community. The qualified men being few, the over-aged among them should be exempted from the operation of the rule regarding age-limit for entertainment in public service.

The need for declaring the Myladi street as a King's highway was pressed at the last session of the Assembly and it was then stated that the Government could not go back upon the decision of the High Court. The visit of the Dewan might have enabled him to realise the grievances of the Nadars caused by the High Court decision. Even a High Court decision could be over-ruled, if it worked hardship on a certain section of the subjects of the State. The roads in Vaikam were similarly situated, but, they had been declared King's highways.

The officers of the Revenue Department should be asked by a circular to adhere strictly to G. O. R. Dis. No. 6 of 24/G. A., enjoining that the caste-name of the community should be recorded as 'Nadar' in all official records. Some of the officers were not following the G. O., while others were persisting in writing 'Nadan' instead of 'Nadar'. That should not be allowed and the name 'Nadar' should be entered in the *Tandaper* and all other revenue records.

Half-fee concessions were allowed to Nadars in English Schools. But there was no such concession in colleges; and consequently, many Nadars could not go in for university education. With a view to encourage the Nadars in higher education, half-fee concessions should be allowed to them in colleges as in the case of Mahomedans who were economically better off than Nadars. Similar concessions should be granted in Vernacular Schools as well.

The pupils attending the Vernacular Middle School, Kottaram, from distant villages were using the old Pakuthi Cutcherry building there as a tiffin shed. As the building had been taken back for the use of the Pakuthi Cutcherry, the pupils were very much inconvenienced. A tiffin shed should therefore be constructed at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Sivasubrahmanya Nadar, I do not propose to deal with the question of a tiffin shed. It is too trifling a matter to be brought before this Assembly.

In regard to Myladi Street, Government are still exploring ways of solving that problem. But I may say at once that they find themselves faced with serious difficulties as to the manner of giving the relief prayed for.

Your request in regard to schools will be placed before the Director of Public Instruction for consideration.

In regard to exemption from age-bar, the Government cannot grant a general relaxation. Individual cases will be considered on their own merits. Nor can Government reserve exclusively for any one community any class of appointments in any department. The backwardness of centuries cannot be made good in a week.

165. Needs of the Sambavars.

MR. K. MADHAVAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that, in all the occupations of the members of the depressed classes, their women had also a share and were employed to do weeding, transplanting, manuring the fields, reaping, etc. But their health was not cared for by their employers, especially during pregnancy and confinement. It was not uncommon to see pregnant women belonging to the depressed classes engaged as porters or doing other kinds of hard labour. The result of such labour was abortion, death of children and in some cases even of the mothers. The aid of doctors could not be resorted to because of poverty. The children born under such adverse conditions became victims to certain fell diseases.

The ignorance of the women-folk was colossal in matters relating to maternity and child-welfare. A few girls of the Sambavar community, who had obtained a fair education, should be trained in midwifery and compounding medicines, at Government cost. Half the seats in the compounders', midwives' and nurses' classes should be reserved for Sambavar girls. After training, they should be entertained in the Government service. Their special duty should be to visit all the villages in the taluk and give lessons on cleanliness, diet and other essentials of health for women and children and give proper aid to the women-folk during their pregnancy and confinement. They should be placed under the control of the medical officers in charge of the nearest hospitals or dispensaries.

Heads of Departments were not acting up to the orders of the Government directing that, in making appointments, duly qualified candidates from the backward classes should be preferred. It was not enough to issue orders, but the Government should see that the officers obeyed them. There was only one member of the Sambavar community holding a respectable office in public service. There were qualified members amongst them, who were obliged to seek appointments outside Travancore. Their population was $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, but only one graduate in law among them was entertained as a clerk in the Judicial Department. Excluding him and one or two teachers in the Elementary Schools and one or two copyists in Munsiffs' Courts, there were no other Sambavars in public service. Heads of Departments were not sympathetic towards them. More than two years ago, a trained graduate and an untrained graduate applied for appointments in the Education Department, but they had not yet been given places. Orders should be passed for their appointment and also for the entertainment of certain youths of the Sambavar community who had passed the Compounders' Test. Peons, Mochis, Forest Guards and Police Constables should also be recruited from that community.

Elsewhere, seats in Legislative Councils were reserved for depressed classes. In the Travancore Legislative Council also, fair representation should be given to them.

The Government had appointed honorary organisers of co-operative societies on fixed *batta* and allowance to impress upon the Sambavars the advantages of co-operation. The object of the Government would be better attained if such organisers were themselves Sambavars.

The rule regarding age-limit for entertainment in public service should not be strictly applied in the case of Sambavars, because, on account of poverty, they would not be able to finish their courses of study before completing the 25th year of age.

Fee concessions were allowed only in Secondary Schools. Such concessions should be extended to Sambavar students in the college classes, and in the Law College and in the Government Technical classes for compounding, surveying, etc. Certain scholarships were clubbed together for the depressed and backward classes. They should be separated and the number of scholarships for the depressed classes should be specified. Qualified members of the Sambavar community should be sent out for higher studies in foreign countries.

The teachers in grant-in-aid schools in Sambavar villages were given only a pay equal to the grants awarded by the Government. That was inadequate. The grants to Sambavar schools should be enhanced.

The Sambavars were poor labouring people without proper places to live in. Many of them migrated to Ceylon to colonise at Unnachi. But on account of its unhealthy climate, those who migrated often returned sickly and poor. The Government should appoint active men who had sympathy and interest in the Sambavars as members of the Land Colonisation committees. It was the duty of the Government to see that all available places suitable for Sambavar colonisation were registered in their names.

The lands earmarked from the Tovala and Kalkulam taluks for registry in the names of Sambavars had been encroached upon by others. The encroachments should be removed and the lands assigned to Sambavars alone.

The depressed classes were represented by nomination in the Nagercoil Municipal Council. But the absence of an elected member was being keenly felt. The nominated member might not always represent the views of the community. Further, he might be too weak to assert his right. As an instance, the member said that, when 30 new lights were sanctioned for the Nagercoil Municipality, each ward was given two lights but none for the Sambavar villages. Such discrimination against the community could be avoided if a special constituency be established for the Sambavars for election to the Municipal Council. There were 70 voters among the depressed classes and 900 houses belonging to them in the Nagercoil Municipality.

166. Other needs of the Sambavars.

MR. K. MADHAVAN (*Member, Nominated*) thanked the Government for providing a few of the villagers of Nanjinad with house-sites. But many members of the depressed classes in Nanjinad had still no lands of their own to put up their huts. The number of such men was greater in Edanad. They lived as bondmen on the lands of rich landlords who might turn them out at any moment. They had to earn their livelihood by hard labour, but sometimes they could not find work. Such being the case, they could not put up new huts every time they were driven out by the landlords. Many people in Nanjinad lived on the banks of rivers and tanks. But while the number of families increased, there was no proportionate extension of house-sites. On the other hand, the lands already under occupation were gradually washed away by flood-water. It was therefore imperative to provide suitable house-sites for the Sambavar community. Two experienced men who were working for the welfare of that community should be selected and paid by the Government and asked to find out suitable plots of land for house-sites, in consultation with the local Sanitary and the Land Revenue officers. If the lands were found to be available for registry, they should be registered without *taravila*. All that could, in the member's opinion, be done in six months. If no suitable *poramboke* lands were available for the purpose, private lands should be acquired as in Mysore and British India and assigned to the Sambavars. Along with the assignment of such lands, the Sambavars should also be given loans repayable in easy instalments for building houses.

Although 19 wells had been sunk in Nanjinad, the need for more wells was being keenly felt. The members of the depressed classes generally used the impure water in the rivers and tanks. Being labourers, they had to be away during the major part of the day and when they returned home in the evening they could not go to distant places to fetch good drinking water and were satisfied with any water that was available near at hand. The use of impure water led to epidemics and deaths. Moreover, the rivers and tanks were dried up during summer. More wells should therefore be sunk in Sambavar villages. The Sambavars could not sink wells with the Government grant of Rs. 100 for each well, because the actual cost would be much more and the Sambavars were not able to meet the excess. The member also observed that the annual budget grants for sinking wells in the Sambavar villages usually lapsed, because of the dilatoriness on the part of the Public Works Department. Stringent orders should be issued to the authorities of that department to spend the allotted amounts.

The Sambavars were deeply indebted to the Government for opening as many as 16 village roads leading to Sambavar villages. But many of them had not yet been completed by the construction of culverts and drains. The remaining works in respect of the roads should be completed and they should be made fit for wheeled traffic.

There were many other villages which suffered from want of proper approach roads for facilitating easy transmission of food-stuffs and other goods. On account of the absence of roads, doctors and officers found it difficult to go to the villages in times of emergency or danger. Cattle also could not be easily taken to and from the villages. The petitions submitted by the villagers on such matters remained unattended to. The Karkad and the Kadetty roads were instances in point. For